



Illegal Dumpsites: A History

Back in the old days, the tribe had its own landfill, as did most rural communities. If your water heater broke down, you dumped it in the tribal landfill. All of your old appliances and furniture got dumped on the reservation, and your household trash was burned in your backyard incinerator. The air often smelled of burning plastic and chemicals, or it was blackened by burning tires. Burning trash often meant releasing harmful toxins in the air, and dumping in a landfill often led to leaching of chemicals into the soil and water table. Our contaminant levels of wells is not so bad on the reservation, but some communities did some real harm to their under-

ground water sources.

During the early 90's, EPA started urging tribal reservations to abandon landfills and adopt other methods of handling municipal solid waste. We contracted with RSP to pick up solid waste and haul it to a federally approved landfill. RSP, however, did not pick up furniture, broken appliances, or large bulky items. Consequently, illegal dumping became a factor of concern as people sought ways to dispose of large items of trash. The tribe enacted littering codes making it a crime to dump illegally on the reservation, and the environmental office came up with the plan to

pickup heavy items once or twice a year, usually curbside. People who could not haul their material to the curb were given a hand by our workers. We now try to offer this service in the spring and the fall, and illegal dumping has fallen sharply over the past decade. Several of the old dumpsites have been cleaned up. We've adopted good environmental practices.



Limit Your Exposure To Cell Phone Radiation by

Environmental Working Group

New cell phones in 2010 are loaded with new features. For some models, like Motorola's Droid, Blackberry Bold 9700, LG Chocolate Touch and HTC Nexus One by Google, consumers pay a hidden price: exposure to the highest legal levels of cell phone radiation. You can see for yourself by looking the radiation levels for new 2010 cell phones. Other new phones emit significantly less radiation. Which is which? You won't find out from those pricey ad campaigns or even the labels. Makers and vendors aren't required to disclose their products' radiation output at point of sale.

That's why Environmental Working Group has created a user-friendly interactive cell phone radiation list and database, covering more than 1,000

phones now on the market. We've updated it with the wireless industry's latest and greatest offerings for the 2010 market. We at Environmental Working Group can't be pried from our cell phones. But we're troubled by recent studies that have found significantly higher risks for brain and salivary gland tumors among people using cell phones for 10 years or longer. More research is crucial.

In the meantime, we think it's smart for consumers to buy phones with the lowest emissions. Before you buy, check out devices you're considering for radiation output. Levels vary widely, from 0.3 to 1.6, the legal limit, measured in watts

per kilogram of body weight, also known as SAR (specific absorption rate), the amount of radiofrequency energy absorbed by the body when using a wireless device phone.

5 BEST PHONES:

Listing is based on phones currently available from major carriers. You can also see all available phones ranked by radiation

1. Sanyo Katana II (Kajeet)
2. Samsung Rugby (SGH-a837) AT&T
3. Samsung Memoir (SGH-T929) T-Mobile
4. Samsung SGH-t229 T-Mobile
5. Helio Pantech Ocean (Virgin Mobile)

Remember!!!!

Flu and cold season is upon us. Be prepared by washing hands more frequently and covering your mouth when coughing.

KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

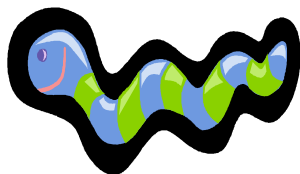
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***Working Together for a Better
Community***

We're on the Web!

**[http://ktik-nsn.gov/
KickapooEnvironmental
Protection.htm](http://ktik-nsn.gov/KickapooEnvironmentalProtection.htm)**



Vermiculture by Mike Kelley

Greetings to all tribal members, this month's article from your friendly neighborhood Air Quality Coordinator is all about the joys of vermiculture. Vermiculture is the fancy way of saying composting with worms. It doesn't take much to set up a worm composting system; you'll just need a bin to keep the worms in (an old wooden dresser drawer will work nicely), and at least 1/4 pound (which is equal to about 500) of Red Wigglers "the Cadillac of worms". Those worms will eat about their weight of vegetable matter, leaves, grass clippings, old newspapers, etc...a day. As long as it is organic vegetable matter they will eat it right up. Best of all everything they eat will be turned into an organic fertilizer for your garden.

You may be asking yourself "How does this relate to air quality"? The choices that we make for our yards, gardens, and waste disposal can have an effect on air issues. First of all, it takes what would have just been land filled and turns it into a very effective fertilizer. This in turn keeps the use of potentially toxic chemical fertilizers out of our air and ground water. Not to mention, for every bit of organic matter we needlessly send to the landfills, it is using up precious resources. It takes diesel fuel to power the trucks, which is then deposited in our atmosphere. For more information about Vermiculture and Green Air Lawn Care you can contact me directly at Phone: 785-486-2601 Ext. 6 or mike.kelley@ktik-nsn.gov

Why We Promote Composting

You may recall past issues when we were promoting you to start composting, to use your food scraps to make nutrient rich soil material for gardens and yards. If you wondered why we wrote several composting articles, here's why.

During the fall of 2007, our office conducted a waste stream study by having RSP bring 71 bags of reservation trash to the Seniors, then we sorted it, weighed it to learn what kind of trash we threw away. The bulk of our trash is food, or organic waste, at 37%. 24% of our waste was paper. We threw away an average of 3.14 pounds

per person per day. The national average is around 4.5 pounds per person. Nationally, paper is the largest waste category, and food is second.

If you could learn to put those food scraps in a compost pile, then your trash volume would be significantly reduced, and you'd possess a great nutrient and soil additive. The problem was, nobody seemed interested in composting. Even people with gardens weren't motivated to start composting, and we're not real sure why.

We continue to promote composting as a good thing for you,

and we have information at our office to help you get started. If interested, call 486-2601, and we can provide information, instruction, and written articles on how to go about composting. You can even start in the winter.

